

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. No claims are amended. Claims 1-6 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,841,741 (Kajiyama). The rejection should be withdrawn because the prior art does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Kajiyama does not teach a load support member connected to the rail bracket, as called for in claims 1 and 6. Nor does Kajiyama teach a load support member “wherein the load support member is a belt-shaped flat member with a U-shaped center portion fixed to the rail bracket by a stopper pin that extends through both the center portion and the holes in the sidewalls” of the rail bracket, as called for in claims 1 and 6.

The Examiner contends that Kajiyama discloses both a rail bracket and a load support member. However, the Examiner’s position is incorrect because Kajiyama only discloses a rail bracket.

Kajiyama teaches a seat weight measuring apparatus that includes a base 21, an arm 61, a load sensor 51, and a rail bracket 35. (See U.S. Patent 6,841,741; Figure 1; column 7, lines 2-7, 56-67). The Office Action states that the upper plate 36 of the rail bracket 35 is the load support member. (See Office Action at page 2, lines 20-21). However, the upper plate 36 of the rail bracket 35 is not a belt-shaped flat member with a U-shaped center portion. Nor is the upper plate 36 connected to the rail bracket 35 because the upper plate 36 is an integrated part of the rail bracket 35. Nor is the upper plate 36 of Kajiyama fixed to the rail bracket 35 by the stopper pin 24 because the upper plate is part of the rail bracket 35 and therefore cannot be fixed to the rail bracket, as called for in the claims.

The Office Action also states more generally that the rail bracket 35 is the load support member. (See Office Action at page 2, lines 22-23). Claims 1 and 6 call for the load support member to be connected to the rail bracket. The rail bracket 35 of Kajiyama is not

additionally a load support member that is connected to the rail bracket 35. In other words, the rail bracket 35 of Kajiyama cannot also be a load support member. Claims 1 and 6 further call for the load member to be fixed to the rail bracket by a stopper pin. The rail bracket 35 of Kajiyama is not a load support member that is fixed to the rail bracket 35 by a stopper pin 24. The rail bracket 35 cannot additionally be a load support member that is fixed to itself by the stopper pin 24. Therefore, Kajiyama fails to teach the arrangement of a rail bracket and a load support member, as required by claims 1 and 6.

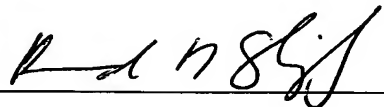
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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